

In the Specification:

Please amend paragraph [0026] as follows:

[0026] Referring now to Fig. 2, an imaging technique in accordance with the present invention is schematically illustrated. As will be described, imaging technique 70 implements variable rate application of magnetic preparation pulses, e.g. saturation pulses, to suppress magnetization in a tissue prior to MR data acquisition. Imaging technique 70 is particularly applicable for elliptical centric phase ordered acquisitions of MR data from a heart and/or abdominal region and, as such, $k_y - k_z$ space is reordered such that data is acquired in the order of increasing radius k_r . k_r may be defined by the following expression:

Please amend paragraph [0036] as follows:

[0036] In accordance with another embodiment of the invention, the invention is embodied in a computer program stored on a computer readable storage medium and having instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to partition k-space data into a number of partitions, wherein each is a given distance from a center of k-space. The computer is further caused to play out a magnetic preparation pulse at a different rate for each partition, the rate being dependent on the given distance a partition is from the center of k-space.